

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05770 080014Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9405
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 05770

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MX, VN, RO
SUBJECT: MEXICO NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM

1. GOM ANNOUNCED MARCH 31 THAT ARMANDO CANTU MEDINA HAD BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM. AMBASSADOR CANTU, A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA SINCE APRIL 1974.

2. CANTU WAS BORN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ IN 1929 AND HAD BEEN AN ARCHITECT PRIOR TO ENTERING THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1959. HE HAS BEEN POSTED TO WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, VIENNA, RIO DE JANEIRO, AND LONDON, WHERE HE SERVED AS MINISTER-COUNSELOR (1971-1974). HE HAS ALSO REPRESENTED MEXICO IN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FORA, INCLUDING THE UN (1960), THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (1964), THE SECOND SPECIAL INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (1965), THE FIRST AMAZON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (1966), AND THE FIRST PAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SOIL CONSERVATION (1966). DURING PART OF HIS STAY IN BUCHAREST, HE WAS ACCREDITED AS AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA.

3. CANTU WAS, IN EFFECT, MEXICO'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA, AS HIS PREDECESSOR LASTED ONLY TWO WEEKS. WHILE
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 05770 080014Z

CANTU WAS IN BUCHAREST, MEXICO AND ROMANIA CONCLUDED ACCORDS CONCERNING COOPERATION IN TOURISM, COMMERCE, ECONOMICS, AND TECHNOLOGY AND OFTEN ACTED IN CONJUNCTION IN THIRD WORLD MATTERS. IF CANTU WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING CLOSER MEXICAN - ROMANIAN RELATIONS, ONE MIGHT SPECULATE THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS AMBASSADOR TO HANOI BECAUSE MEXICO IS DESIROUS OF DEVELOPING CLOSER

RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM. IT IS NOT PRESENTLY KNOWN IF CANTU WILL BE ACCREDITED TO ANY OTHER SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

4. CANTU'S ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US ARE UNKNOWN. HE DID GROW UP ON THE US-MEXICAN BORDER AND HAS BEEN POSTED TO THE US. HE IS PRESUMED TO SPEAK ENGLISH. EMBASSY MEXICO WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY BUCHAREST REGARDING CANTU'S PERFORMANCE IN ROMANIA, HIS ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, AND HIS RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. THOMPSON

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